OCCUPY SYDNEY Zine

Issue 5
18/05/12

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Photo by Liam Kesteven

Welcome

Welcome to our fifth issue of Occupy Sydney Zine! M12 was a great success, a big thank you to all that made food for the Occupy the Screen night. It was awesome to hear directly from the creators of the films we saw. Wonderful to see everyone and Alan's Sustainable Cinema bike is a real work of art. Talk to him about a screening in your suburb.

Occupy Parramatta did banner drops at Westfield and Martin Place. Where next I wonder? Amazing banner Parramatta!

This is *your* platform to share & show what Occupy Sydney means to you. The submissions in this zine are the opinions of individual Occupiers. All copy rights & ownership remain with these individuals.

Please feel welcome to contribute & add *your* voice & views.

It is only when we share in the commons do we bond as a community, so let us all share in the commons of the people's media & discover what we can create together.

Online version & back issues http://www.scribd.com/occupysydneyzine

If you would like an emailed copy put Subscription in the subject heading and email OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com

A big thank you to Hugo, Nicky, Liam, Shelly, Maloë & Alex for your articles, reports, poems, photos & images. I am so very grateful to work on this project with your talents!

Much Love & Support xx Bern

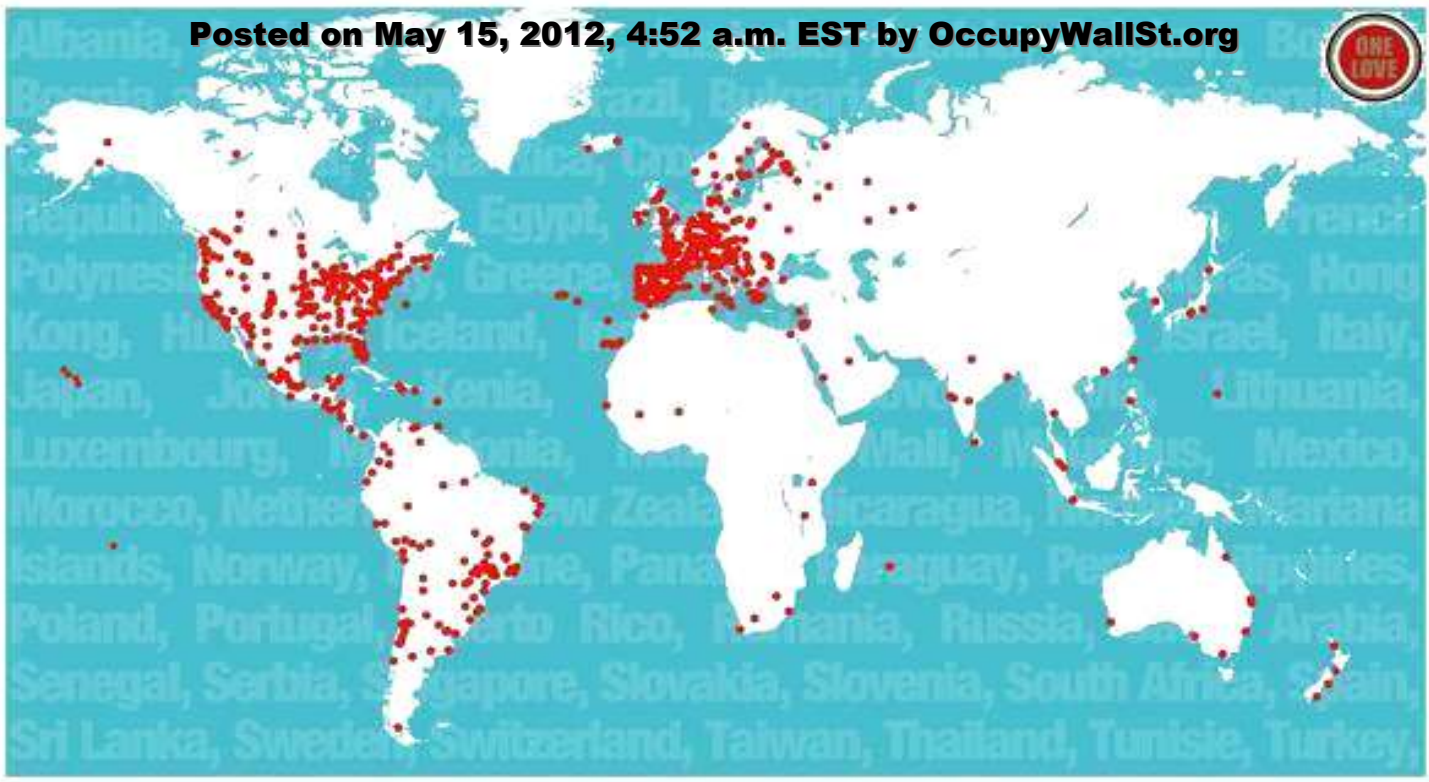
Your Submissions & Feedback

Please put "Submission" or "Feedback" in the subject heading & submit your contributions by Wednesdays to OccupySydneyZine@gmail.com

so it can be ready for printing by Occupy Fridays

Photo from singsforchange.tumblr.com by Bern Ellis

15-M One Year Later



October 15, 2011: The movement goes global.

Today is the one year anniversary of the 15-M movement in Spain, which continues to mobilize hundreds of thousands of people and inspire the world. The following text is an excerpt from 15-M: What Is The Plan? orginally published on TakeTheSquare.net in March. It is republished in part to give our readers a better understanding of the 15-M movement, who we are, what our goals and tactics are, and what we are fighting for.

Today is also a day of action against the banks that caused the global crisis and the culmination of the Another NYC Is Possible Week of Actions Against Budget Cuts And Austerity. ***Join us in solidarity with the indignad@s for a mass rally at Times Square at 6pm!***

1.1: Arab Spring: One goal, One strategy

The Arab Spring was sparked by the first protests that occurred in Tunisia on 18 December 2010 following Mohamed Bouazizi's self-immolation in protest of police corruption and ill treatment. With the success of the protests in Tunisia, a wave of unrest sparked by the Tunisian "Burning Man" struck Algeria, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Yemen, then spread to other Arab countries. Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia on 14 January following the Tunisian revolution protests. In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak resigned on 11 February 2011 after 18 days of massive protests, ending his 30-year presidency.

A major slogan of the demonstrators in the Arab world has been "ash-shab yurid isqat an-nizam" ("the people want to bring down the regime") and they did it in Tunisia and Egypt with a **sustained campaign of "non-stop protest" involving strikes, demonstrations, marches, occupations…**

Note:
The Icelandic rejection of the debt and the Greek mobilizations against austerity plans, as well as the

surge of new technologies with the uprising of movements such as Anonymous, Zeitgeist, Wikileaks, Democracy Now, Yes Men, amongst others, have also been of great influence to this (r) evolution.

1.2 Real Democracy Now, birth of a new movement

All through the winter of 2010 the collective "Democracia Real Ya!" (DRY), in association with approximately 200 smaller organizations, had been preparing a huge demonstration for real democracy in Spain. The protest movement gained momentum on May 15 with a camping occupation in Madrid's main square, the Puerta del Sol, spreading to squares in 57 other major and smaller cities in Spain, and then to Spanish embassies all around the world.

Via its Spanish server tomalaplaza and its international version Takethesquare, the re-baptized 15M movement (also called "indignados" by the media) became a transnational movement. It exploded in Greece ten days later (on May 25) and while taking place, with lesser intensity, in France, Italy, Portugal and Ireland with a culmination point on June 19 when "the outraged" took the street in hundreds of cities around the world in support of this first global day (3.000.000 just in Spain).

In opposition to the Arab spring, 15M doesn't fight towards ending a regime but has a **holistic objective, it demands a Real Democracy, not just a revolution but an Evolution.** The organization denounces the way big businesses and banks dominate the political and economical sphere and aims to propose a series of solutions to these problems through grassroots participatory democracy, which is **based on people's assemblies and consensus decision making**. It maintains no affiliation with any political party or labor union and has not appointed any single leader and is unwilling to join any of the existing political bodies. It also promotes non-violent protesting.

1.3 15O Road to dignity, Occupy the world

On mid June 2011, Takethesquare network and the international DRY platform started to work together on a global day for October 15 with a first objective of exporting the movement (assemblies and possibly camps) to a maximum of cities around the world. The first international meeting took place in Lisbon on the 10 and 11 of July with participants from Iceland, Greece, Spain, Italy, etc. Israel social justice protest rose up on July 14 with hundreds of thousands of people mobilized in the different protest camps all around the country. Around this time 8 marches began walking, from different areas of Spain, towards Madrid, starting people's assemblies in every village they crossed, while organizing the second international meeting (a week-long social forum) which would be held on July 23 in their destination.

After this, a new march left Madrid to walk to Brussels, and was quickly joined by six other European itinerant protests (coming from Barcelona, Saragossa, Toulouse, Sicily, Berlin and Amsterdam). They stopped in Paris on September 17 for the Global Anti-Bankster Day, (thought of as a means to test the international coordination before the 15O), when actions like the occupation of stock markets and central banks were taken against the financial dictatorship in a number of cities such as Barcelona, Athens, Tel Aviv, New York and Mexico; and the third international meeting (AgoraParis) was held. In September the first Hub meeting in Barcelona took place. Hubs meetings are working areas focused on a concrete project but open to a maximum of collectives, this one in particular being focused on the coordination of the 15O Global Day.

The fourth international meeting (AgoraBrussels) was held from the 8 of October until the 15O Global Day, when millions of people took to the streets in almost 1000 cities around the world, setting up General Assemblies and Occupations. Although incomparable in their intensity to Tunisia, Egypt, Spain, Greece and Israel, the actions of 15O still were present in all the continents and in 82 countries.

Note:
Under the strong cultural and mass-media influence of New York, movements in a lot of cities changed their name to "Occupy" and focused their action in denouncing the "1%" with anti-capitalist actions like the 5th. of November Bank Transfer Day, the RobinHood Tax March or the G20 counter summit and the occupation of other stock markets and banks in London, Zurich, Frankfurt…

2/ PRINCIPLES AND DEMANDS, AIMS OF THE MOVEMENT

2.1 Who are we at a local and global level?

Regarding our background we can conclude that we are:

a) **Non-stop protests** maintaining occupations, strikes, direct actions, information campaigns, day after day to apply real pressure on institutions (political, financial, military, environmental…) we want to reform or rebuild.

b) **Communities** including camps, squats, itinerant walkers, neighborhoods, eco-villages, co-operatives and alternative projects… self-managed by what we all recognize as the only real democratic process (horizontal, open to everybody, non-partisan, transparent, non-violent, inclusive…) through the General Assembly.

c) **Working groups** of people co-operating on specific projects (communication, direct action, outreach, international, economy…)

2.2 What do we want at a local and global level?

The first and maybe only thing we all want is for power to be given back to the people, by joint-decision making. Because since the beginning of this movement we have always practiced and improved on this process, we now know what real democracy looks like and will only recognize a way of organization through self-management.

As a movement, we want to expand this process to a maximum of places around the world (15O plan or geographic expansion), creating and connecting a maximum of communities that work with it. We all agree that our methodology of assembly/ consensus is the way to organize our communities and all the institutions that rule our lives (political, economical, educational, environmental…). Although there is a group who want to reform these institutions and make them adopt our process and another group who wish to create their own institutions from scratch, all the members of our movement want and recognize the same process (15M plan or systematic expansion).

2.3 What are our next concrete objectives at a local and global level?

a) **Generalization of the non-stop protests:**

A first phase of local convergence of struggles or “outreach” missions, (will) give way to the coordination of fights towards a sustained and general action which can be global.

Therefore, our direct action groups must firstly generalize the actions and, in collaboration with outreach groups, give a maximum of different sectors of the population (farmers, students, immigrants, workers, retired…) the tools to coordinate direct actions.

b) **Generalization of the communities:**

A first phase of linking/supporting/creating local co-operatives (will) give way to the coordination of those alternative projects in holistic co-operatives which can, in turn, be global or regional.

Therefore, our different public services and alternative projects have to collaborate in holistic platforms to answer to the needs of our communities (education, health, food, transport, culture…)

Photos by Bern

The Inequality Speech That TED Won't Show You

By **Jim Tankersley**

May 16, 2012 | 2:26 PM

http://roundtable.nationaljournal.com/2012/05/the-inequality-speech-that-ted-wont-show-you.php

Prepare to meet Nick Hanauer. He's a venture capitalist from Seattle who was the first non-family investor in Amazon.com. Today he's a very rich man. And, somewhat jarringly, he's screaming to anyone who will listen that he, and other wealthy innovators like him, doesn't create jobs. The middle class does - and its decline threatens everyone in America, from the innovators on down.

You'll read a lot more about Hanauer in the next installation of Restoration Calls, which drops tomorrow. In the meantime, check out the full text of a speech Hanauer gave in March at the TED University conference. You can't find the talk online, because TED officials have declared it too politically controversial to post on their web site. You be the judge:

It is astounding how significantly one idea can shape a society and its policies. Consider this one.

If taxes on the rich go up, job creation will go down.

This idea is an article of faith for republicans and seldom challenged by democrats and has shaped much of today's economic landscape.

But sometimes the ideas that we know to be true are dead wrong. For thousands of years people were sure that earth was at the center of the universe. It's not, and an astronomer who still believed that it was, would do some lousy astronomy.

In the same way, a policy maker who believed that the rich and businesses are "job creators" and therefore should not be taxed, would make equally bad policy.

I have started or helped start, dozens of businesses and initially hired lots of people. But if no one could have afforded to buy what we had to sell, my businesses would all have failed and all those jobs would have evaporated.

That's why I can say with confidence that rich people don't create jobs, nor do businesses, large or small. What does lead to more employment is a "circle of life" like feedback loop between customers and businesses. And only consumers can set in motion this virtuous cycle of increasing demand and hiring. In this sense, an ordinary middle-class consumer is far more of a job creator than a capitalist like me.

So when businesspeople take credit for creating jobs, it's a little like squirrels taking credit for creating evolution. In fact, it's the other way around.

Anyone who's ever run a business knows that hiring more people is a capitalists course of last resort, something we do only when increasing customer demand requires it. In this sense, calling ourselves job creators isn't just inaccurate, it's disingenuous.

That's why our current policies are so upside down. When you have a tax system in which most of the exemptions and the lowest rates benefit the richest, all in the name of job creation, all that happens is that the rich get richer.

Since 1980 the share of income for the richest Americans has more than tripled while effective tax rates have declined by close to 50%.

If it were true that lower tax rates and more wealth for the wealthy would lead to more job creation, then today we would be drowning in jobs. And yet unemployment and under-employment is at record highs.

Another reason this idea is so wrong-headed is that there can never be enough superrich Americans to power a great economy. The annual earnings of people like me are hundreds, if not thousands, of times greater than those of the median American, but we don't buy hundreds or thousands of times more stuff. My family owns three cars, not 3,000. I buy a few pairs of pants and a few shirts a year, just like most American men. Like everyone else, we go out to eat with friends and family only occasionally.

I can't buy enough of anything to make up for the fact that millions of unemployed and underemployed Americans can't buy any new clothes or cars or enjoy any meals out. Or to make up for the decreasing consumption of the vast majority of American families that are barely squeaking by, buried by spiraling costs and trapped by stagnant or declining wages.

Here's an incredible fact. If the typical American family still got today the same share of income they earned in 1980, they would earn about 25% more and have an astounding $13,000 more a year. Where would the economy be if that were the case?

Significant privileges have come to capitalists like me for being perceived as j'ob creators"at the center of the economic universe, and the language and metaphors we use to defend the fairness of the current social and economic arrangements is telling. For instance, it is a small step from j'ob creator"to The Creator." We did not accidentally choose this language. It is only honest to admit that calling oneself a j'ob creator"is both an assertion about how economics works and the a claim on status and privileges.

The extraordinary differential between a 15% tax rate on capital gains, dividends, and carried interest for capitalists, and the 35% top marginal rate on work for ordinary Americans is a privilege that is hard to justify without just a touch of deification

We've had it backward for the last 30 years. Rich businesspeople like me don't create jobs. Rather they are a consequence of an eco-systemic feedback loop animated by middle-class consumers, and when they thrive, businesses grow and hire, and owners profit. That's why taxing the rich to pay for investments that benefit all is a great deal for both the middle class and the rich.

So here's an idea worth spreading.

In a capitalist economy, the true job creators are consumers, the middle class. And taxing the rich to make investments that grow the middle class, is the single smartest thing we can do for the middle class, the poor and the rich.

Thank You.

Submitted by Hugo

Occupy the Screen

May 12, 7pm at Martin Place, Sydney

Photos by Bern

Future of Free School

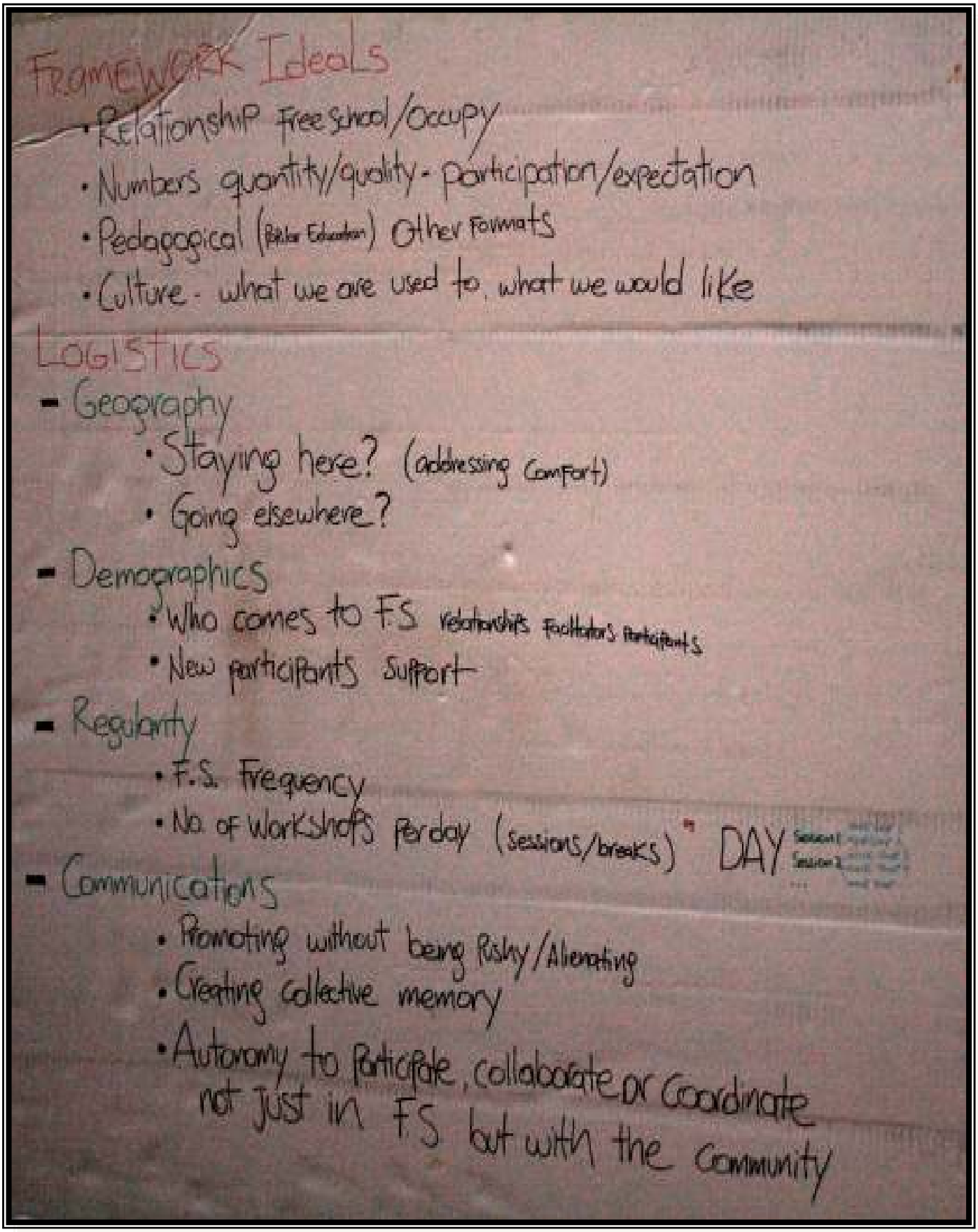

FRAMEWORK Ideals
• Relationship Free School/Occupy
• Numbers quantity/quality - participation/expectation
• Pedagogical (Public Education) Other Formats
• Culture - what we are used to, what we would like
LOGISTICS
- Geography
• Staying here? (addressing Comfort)
• Going elsewhere?
- Demographics
• Who comes to FS relationships Facilitators Participants
• New participants support
- Regularity
• F.S. Frequency
• No. of workshops per day (sessions/breaks) DAY
- Communications
• Promoting without being Risky/Alienating
• Creating collective memory
• Autonomy to Participate, collaborate or Coordinate not just in FS but with the Community

Photo by Bern

Occupy Parramatta

Photos Submitted by Shelly

Today Occupy Parramatta dropped the banner on Westfield. This was to mark the anniversary of the first occupation in the Spanish Indignados for the Global Day of Action. This was to call for the 99% of people to take the square to occupy together for the millions and not the millionaires. This highlighted the general frustration that we live in a consumerist world controlled by the corporate greedy 1%.

Occupy Parra stated, *"Westfield is one of the largest landholders in the world. It is notorious for destroying communities, small business and unions worldwide. Governments continue to fund the 1% and the 1% funds the government. Occupy worldwide will not give up fight for human need and not corporate greed."*

Submitted by Shelly

About hitchhiking

The highway is a massive and intimidating foreigner,
a funnel of decisions and purposes,
Asphalt phrases traced–––––_--_____-––––_-–_____-––––- on country paper,
Vehicle territory where wanderers can easily be
forgotten.

I raise my thumb and bum
some alien space and time.
Is Romanticism still out there?
Solidarity?
Curiosity?
Charity?

It's always easier to find reasons not to stop
than to stop
The huge importance of the spot

Enough VISIBILITY and a | BROAD | shoulder
I must create a bigger chance for them to pull over.

My arm is lifted since 8 am and 3 hours later...
I'm still here talking to myself
and shouting to my imaginary friend.
Extremely [ ] in fluent traffic
demoralizing
Everybody looks at you from their cars expressionless or
turn their eyes to somewhere else.

Glued to this heartless shoulder forever.....
But people will stop and
I won´t be an atheist anymore.

Why?
Altruism sprouts in their travelling souls
The driver has done it himself
The driver is a leftie
Nah
Drivers want a decent chat

Always eager to hear prophet stories and even better,
to tell you theirs.
Practice your storytelling skills
Add some dressings to your tales

They will brag skin-deep or
they will immerse into honest conversation
Confident confessions off the record,
under the shelter of the stranger.

I hear about Rhodesia,
about miracles,
about Kirk Douglas,
about money,
about value,
about marriage,
about values,
about sex and
about sex again.

A woman driving a V6 overtakes and rants
Out of my FUckn way CUNTS!

Giggly old fellow cheating on his wife while
a lonely man is looking for a partner.

Been stuck in the mud for hours?
SUV's with 600,000 ks and still working
Have kids
A new SUV is quite expensive
Don´t waste your time travelling

I tell them about Spain,
about Woofing,
about Woodford,
about the sun
tanning just my hitching arm,
about being yelled 'Get a job!'
about the guy who picked me up before,
about hitchhiking.

The Malevolent Monsanto Food Monopoly

Posted on May 10, 2012 by Mark Isaacs

http://3things.org.au/_wp/?p=11065

As the Live Below the Line campaign takes over the nation this week, it seemed appropriate to write about global food production. Remember that documentary Food Inc.? No? Haven't heard of it? Have you been living in a cave the past decade? Go see it. Now. This movie galvanised millions of young people all over the world to become vegetarian for a week.

The documentary examines the economically and environmentally unsustainable practices of the USA's industrial production of meat, grains and vegetables. As it delves further and further into global food production it identifies that the industry is controlled by a few mono-national corporations who promote cheap but contaminated food. According to Greenpeace, ten corporations control nearly 70% of the world's seed market, and one chemical company – Monsanto – controls 90% of the world's genetically modified (GM) seed market.

Monsanto. That word sounds familiar, right? It's been a buzz word for crazy socialists and passionate environmentalists for a while now. Monsanto is the Death Star of the modern day food industry. To give you an idea of this company's ethical standards, before they got into the food industry they were the chemical company that invented Agent Orange.

Back in 1973 Monsanto invented and marketed a weed-killing herbicide called Roundup that was used to spray crops all over America. Monsanto soon began patenting the gene of Roundup Ready crops that could resist the application of Round Up. Between 1994 and 2008, Monsanto-patented soybeans jumped from 2% of the US soy bean market to 90%. What this patenting law meant for farmers in the US was that they could no longer replant the seeds that grew on their land as it was the property of Monsanto. If a farmer doesn't use the Monsanto crops and seeds blow in and contaminate the farmers land, it is up to the farmer to prove that he did not violate Monsanto's patents.

Monsanto have now spread their patented genes of Roundup Ready crops all around the world essentially attempting to control the global food industry. The World According to Monsanto documentary, the most poorly produced documentary in the world, stated that 'Monsanto control seed, they control food – it's more powerful than bombs. It's more powerful than guns. This is the best way to control the populations of the world.'

So how did we ever let these guys become so powerful?

The World According to Monsanto deemed it the 'revolving door' policy whereby Monsanto employees switched between their roles at the company and policy-making positions within the US government. Thanks to these intimate links between Monsanto and government agencies, the US adopted genetically engineered (GE) foods and crops without

proper testing, without consumer labelling against the advice of all government health and safety recommendations.

Since their Vietnamese forest burning days, Monsanto have been responsible for an unimaginable number of injustices against farmers, civilians and the environment. There is a tonne of evidence organised by investigative journalists, scientists, environmentalists and political parties that oppose the actions of this company. Yet they continue to grow.

So what does this mean to Australians?

NSW and Victoria already allow the commercial growing of genetically engineered canola and cotton, despite bans in the other canola-growing states of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. According to Greenpeace the canola variety is Monsanto's Roundup Ready Canola that caused increased liver sizes of up to 16% when it was fed to rats in Monsanto's own study. Canola oil is used in a wide range of processed foods, much of which goes in to feeding Australian livestock. The European market has recently shut the gate on Australia's GM canola.

Currently there is a corporate attempt to commercialise genetically modified wheat in Australia by 2015 despite the fact that GM wheat has been rejected by all of the other major wheat growing nations in the world. Australia is among the world's top five wheat exporters yet we are about to become the first country in the world to eat GM wheat which has never been proven safe.

If this was to go ahead, it is inevitable that Australia's conventional wheat will be contaminated by GM wheat. There have been twenty nine reported incidents of contamination in Australia, half of which occurred under GM trials, and 169 breaches of security licenses issued by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) are recorded. WA farmer Steve Marsh is currently fighting the first legal stoush against Monsanto in Australia over the spread of their patented crops.

There have been close to 900 experimental trials of other GE crops in Australia.

Looking at these facts, I find it unfathomable to comprehend what would possess our nation to sell off our land to a corporation so devoid of moral integrity and ethical practices. How much more land and produce do we have to give away to corporate greed? This is not just an Australian problem however. Oxfam's GROW campaign states that 80% of the world's hungry people are directly involved in food production and yet Monsanto owns the majority of their produce.

So what can we do to prevent our food being contaminated?

You could check out Greenpeace's Truefood Guide to avoiding GM food. Battle Monsanto via social media. Or get involved directly and help Steve Marsh fight Goliath. Or how about writing to the Australian Ethical Consumer Guide about Monsanto. According to their website, Monsanto Australia is a legitimate company while Monsanto USA is in the corporate hall of shame.

Submitted by Nicky

Dear PM Julia Gillard,

I am deeply concerned that the Australian Government is selling a 'patent' on our daily bread to foreign biotech corporations.

Genetically modified (GM) wheat has been released across five Australian states and territories, and the CSIRO says that GM bread will be on Australian supermarket shelves as soon as 2015.

I am urging you to step in and protect Australia's food supply and stop GM wheat being grown in Australia.

Please, consider these serious risks before allowing Australia to become the first country in the world to eat GM wheat.

All of Australia's major wheat export competitors, including North America, rejected GM wheat because of the risk it posed to their country's billion-dollar wheat trade. Wheat is Australia's largest export crop and contamination is inevitable if we allow GM wheat into the country, so why would we grow it here? In fact, Bayer's .2 billion GM rice contamination scandal started from the type of small-scale field trial currently being conducted on wheat in Australia.

Since the deregulation of the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) there has been no government agency looking after the interests of Australian wheat farmers. Foreign biotech corporations cannot be trusted with control of Australia's wheat industry.

There is also no legislation to protect individual farmers from contamination by GM wheat, or the costs imposed by the loss of important markets. One organic wheat farmer, Steve Marsh, has already lost his entire crop to GM contamination and has had no choice but to file legal action in a landmark case against his neighbour. It is completely irresponsible to introduce GM wheat to Australia when there is no legal framework to protect farmers and their communities.

GM has not been proven safe to eat. There have been no independent, long-term health studies on the impacts of eating GM. It is entirely unethical to make Australia the first place in the world to eat GM wheat and use Australian kids as guinea pigs. Wheat is a major staple food, and the risks of consuming large amounts of GM are completely unknown.

Please, stop GM wheat being grown in Australia and make sure overseas biotech companies don't patent our daily bread.

There is no long-term, independent evidence that GM crops are safe to eat, or that it can be contained in the field. GM wheat is a risk to our health, our natural biodiversity and to farmers' livelihoods.

I am urging you to act to keep Australian wheat safe, affordable and fair.

Yours faithfully,
Ethan Nash
CEO, Turn Off The Television

Submitted by Nicky from http://tottaustralia.wordpress.com

Why don't we put this company out of business?

In 1996 Pfizer carried out unlicensed medical trials of its drug Trovan on critically ill children in a Nigerian slum, leaving 11 dead and many more plagued by serious long-term side effects. Trovan was banned and Pfizer eventually paid a $75 million settlement. Pfizer was forced to pay $430 million in 2004 for illegally marketing the drug Neurontin for unapproved uses. Despite pledging to obey the law, Pfizer was levied a $2.3 billion fine in 2009 for once again recommending its drugs for potentially dangerous uses. The largest criminal fine in history, it amounted to less than three weeks of the pharmaceutical giant's sales, and business continues as usual.

Why should Pfizer be too big to fail? From Philip Morris to Goldman Sachs to Exxon Mobil, corporations that break the public trust must be held criminally responsible for their actions. Send an email to Attorney General Holder asking him to adopt a three strikes rule against corporate criminals. Break the public trust three times and you're out: We'll revoke your corporate charter and put you out of business. No exceptions.

adbusters.org

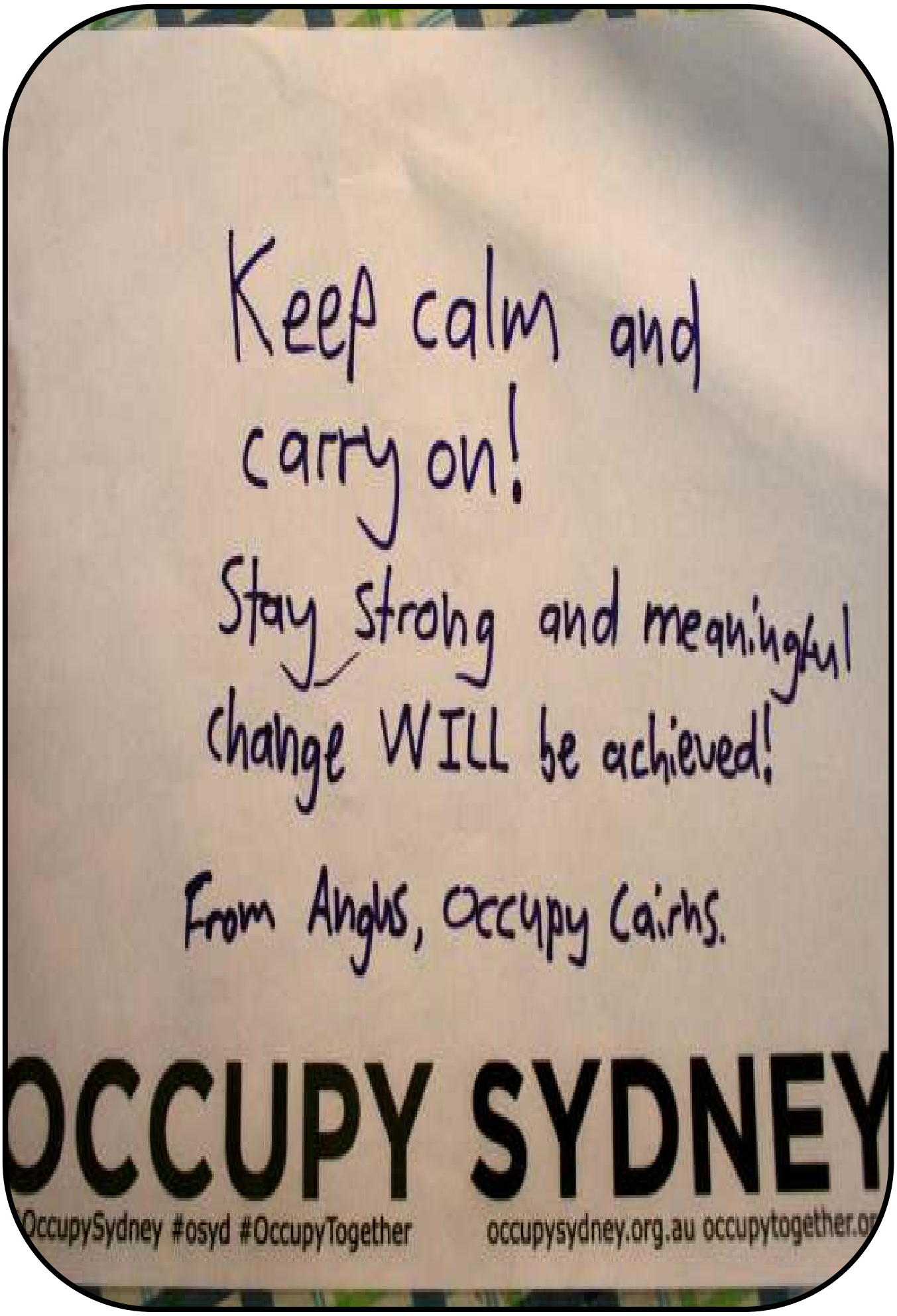


Photo from messagesofsupport.tumblr.com by Bern Ellis

Upcoming Events

Wed 23 May 2012

12:15noon Sydney Uni Course cuts campaign "Speak out to sit in" East Ave (Outside the Quadrangle. Contact Freya 0431 942 599 or Tom 0414 293 411 join us on facebook Usyd Students against Staff Cuts

6pm Next OS GA.

Sat 26 May 2012

1pm Next Occupy Parra freeschool "Workers Rights" Amphitheatre Church St Mall Parramatta

Occupy Parramatta every Saturday Stall from 9am, next organising meeting this Saturday from 1pm Church St Mall Amphitheatre Parramatta.

Sydney

Building Bridges Festival - Gig for Refugees with The Herd, Watussi, Dog Trumpet, Ember and ROSiE

Date: Fri 18 May, 6:00pm - Fri 18 May, 11:30pm

6pm through to 12am Friday, May 18, The Standard, Darlinghurst $30 plus booking fee or $20 concession plus booking fee Refugee Action Coalition fundraiser

Website: http://refugeeaction.org.au/

The fight for free education - from Chile, Quebec to Australia

Date: Tue 22 May, 6:30pm

The Australian government eradicated free education in higher education in 1989, with the introduction of Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). Since then, ALP and Liberal governments have been reducing funding, relying on international students fees to boost income, causualised staff, and implemented cuts to courses and staff. Come and hear about the battle against the neo-liberal agenda against education in Australia, Quebec and Chile with Susan Price, co-convenor and vice-president of the NTEU NSW branch, and Casey Thompson, student activist Sydney University. Tuesday, 22 May 6pm (meal)6:30pm start, Resistance Centre, 22 Mountain St, Ultimo. Organised by Socialist Alliance & Green Left Weekly Ph 8070 9331

Phone: 8070 9331

Sydney University student strike and festival against staff cuts!

Date: Wed 23 May, 12:00am

Student strike of select classes to converge in a general assembly and festival against the cuts. Sydney University.

Submitted by Shelly

Upcoming Events

Resistance Red cinema presents a Feminist Film Festival

Date: Fri 25 May, 6:00pm - Sat 26 May, 6:00pm

Recently released films from the United States will lead into a feminist discussion on the steps needed for women's liberation. Friday May 25 6pm (cheap meal) and film from 6pm 'Generation M: Misogyny in Media and Culture' Saturday May 26 4pm-6pm 'Tough Guise: Violence, Media & the Crisis in Masculinity.' Cheap meal from 7pm, Resistance Centre, 22 Mountain St, Ultimo. Donation entry. Ph: Trick 0414 942 007 Tessa 0422 430 079. A joint film screening between Sydney Feminists and Resistance. www.meetup.com/The-Sydney-Feminists/ http://www.resistance.org.au/

Phone: 0414 942 007

Website: http://www.resistance.org.au/

Seminar: Stop Government Income Management - In Bankstown and everywhere.

Date: Sat 26 May, 1:00pm

Seminar for community and union members. Income management is coming to Bankstown. It is a highly discriminatory and humiliating social policy which 'quarantines' 50-70% of Centrelink payments so that only certain items approve by the government may be purchased. Income Management was first introduced through the federal Intervention in NT Aboriginal communities and is being strongly resisted both in the NT and in Bankstown. Saturday May 26 1pm Arab Council Australia, 194 Stacey Street near Bankstown station. Endorsed by the Canterbury-Bankstown Teachers Federation and the Maritime Union of Australia

Forum: 20 Years on: How Refugee Detention began and why mandatory detention needs to end

Date: Mon 28 May, 6:00pm

Speakers: Nick Poynder (refugee lawyer who challenged mandatory detention in 1992) and Dr. Michael Dudley (Suicide Prevention Australia). This year marks 20 years since the introduction of mandatory detention. Before 1992, refugees who has arrived by boat were not detained. But when Cambodian refugees began arriving in 1989 the Labor government began moving to detain them. In 1992 lawyers including Nick Poynder launched a challenge to the detention of 15 asylum seekers for over two years. To stop this the Keating Labor government passed legislation on May 6 to entrench indefinite detention. This forum will discuss the history of the policy, and how it was not so long ago that mandatory detention did not exist. 6pm Monday May 28, Teachers Federation building, 23-33 Mary St, Surry Hills (near Central Station). Organised by Refugee Action Coalition Contact 0417 275 713 refugeeaction.org.au

Phone: 0417 275 713

Website: refugeeaction.org.au

Sat 24 June 2012

1pm World Refugee Day @ Sydney Town Hall. To get involved Refugee Action Coalition meets every Monday 6pm @ Teacher Federation 23-33 Mary St Surry Hills

Submitted by Shelly

May 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 GENERAL STRIKE No Work, School, Shopping, Banking, Housework!	2 6.30pm GA MP	3	4 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	5 Occupy Parramatta 5.30pm GA MP	6
7 6.30pm GA MP	8	9 6.30pm GA MP	10	11 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	12 GLOBAL OCCUPY Occupy Parramatta Free School MP 5.30pm GA MP	13 <— Also 7pm 12th OCCUPY the SCREEN
14 6.30pm GA MP	15	16 6.30pm GA MP Occupy Westfield	17	18 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	19 Occupy Parramatta 5.30pm GA MP	20
21 6.30pm GA MP	22	23 6.00pm GA MP	24	25 Occupy Friday's & Movie Night	26 Occupy Parramatta Free School MP 5.30pm GA MP	27
28 6.30pm GA MP	29	30 Occupy the Courts 6.30pm GA MP	31			

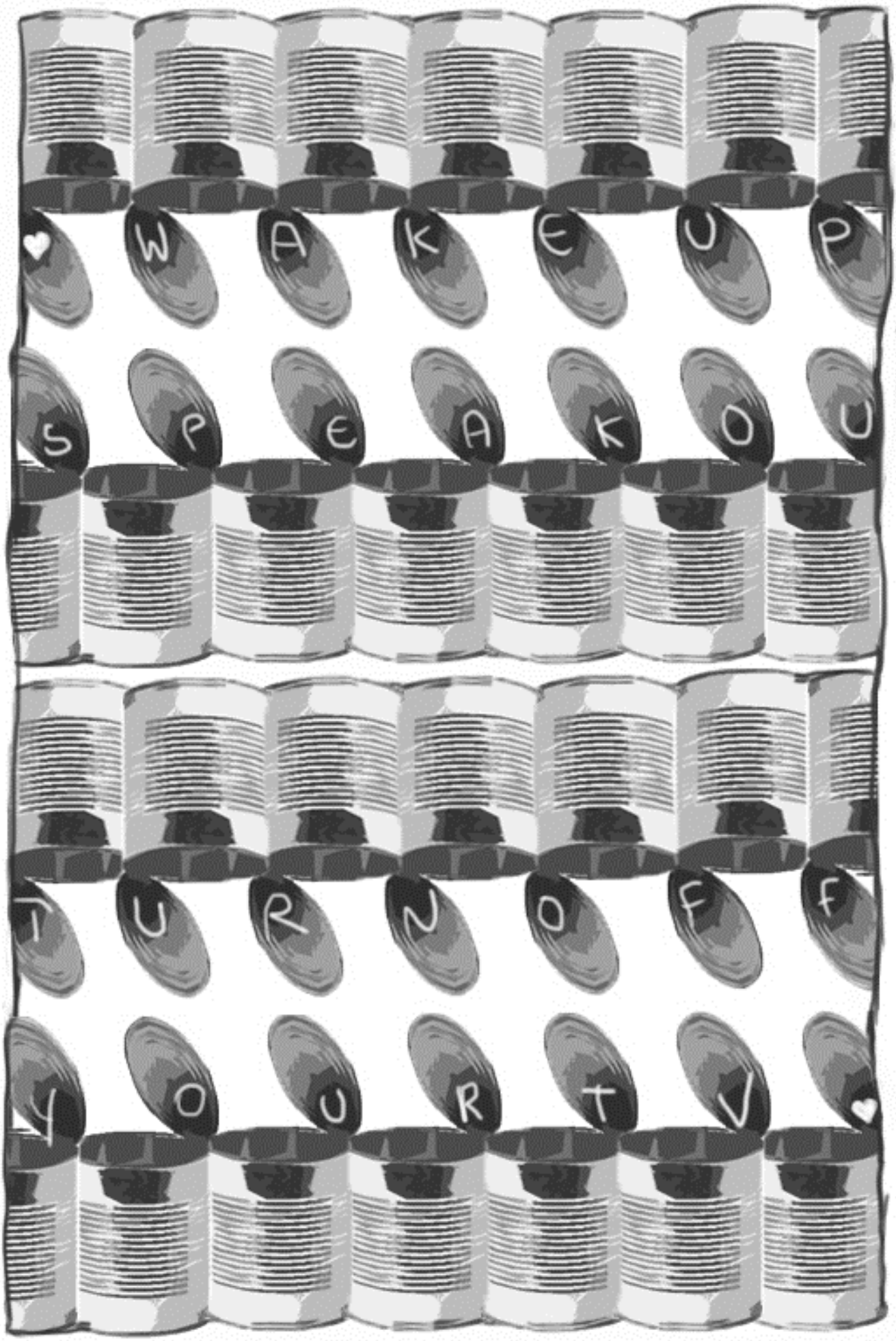


Image by Maloë Cadic